

**COUNCIL WORK SESSION
CITY OF WATERTOWN
June 14, 2010
7:15 P.M.**

MAYOR JEFFREY E. GRAHAM PRESIDING

PRESENT: **COUNCIL MEMBER ROXANNE M. BURNS
COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH M. BUTLER, JR.
COUNCIL MEMBER TERESA R. MACALUSO
COUNCIL MEMBER JEFFREY M. SMITH
MAYOR GRAHAM**

ALSO PRESENT: **MARY M. CORRIVEAU, CITY MANAGER
ATTORNEY JAMES BURROWS**

City Staff present: Kurt Hauk, Gary Pilon, Gene Hayes, Joe Goss, Ken Mix and Jim Mills

J.B. WISE PARKING LOT

Memorandum from City Engineer Kurt Hauk, June 4, 2010

Mr. Hauk presented plans for this project which included grading and utility work. Discussion was held concerning whether or not to bid it now in an effort to get the best price and then move it along or to alter the plans and then bid it out deleting the grant items.

Mr. Mix outlined what the grants were to cover. He explained that the first included a pedestrian connection from Newell St to the Riverwalk, a covered walkway, reconfiguration of the parking lot and landscaping. The second included the reconstruction of the J.B.Wise lot, retaining wall, water and sewer utilities, landscaping, sidewalks and curbing. He also advised that the project was designed as a whole. If the City spends what they said it would be, they would ask for the whole grant.

Council Member Butler remarked that we are still spending money for a matching grant. He also questioned how much the lot would be used.

Council Member Burns responded that it will be used by many people.

Council Member Butler remarked that the City gets grief when they take 5 parking spaces away from in front of Avon Shoes and now we are asking people to park even further away.

Mrs. Corriveau remarked that she believed that the Council wanted to put streets in and out of the lot and Mr. Hauk explained that the sewer needed to be done as part of the City's long term control plan.

Mayor Graham commented that he didn't think the covered walkway was essential and he didn't care that there were islands with trees.

Mr. Hauk explained that they are rain gardens with shrubbery size plantings that collect storm water in the swale. A lot of the water is absorbed by the plants before it goes into the system. Under new storm water regulations, they want us to keep as much on the site as possible.

Mr. Hauk advised that if Council wishes to have an alternate bid done, there will have to be separate plans drawn up for the contractors. He explained that the biggest expense is buying curbing, asphalt and sidewalks.

Mrs. Corriveau reminded Council that this project started as a connection project from Public Square to the Riverwalk.

Council Member Butler expressed his concern about the road off of Court Street and wondered why that was needed.

Mr. Mix explained that it was designed 20-25 years ago.

Council Member Butler remarked that it doesn't seem to be supported by any evidence of need like the new turns are in Public Square.

Council Member Burns commented that she could understand having another egress for the lot. However, we would have to acquire property to do so.

Mrs. Corriveau advised that staff had started discussions per Council. However, those costs are not included. She asked if Council wanted to look at doing the utilities in-house.

Mayor Graham questioned the 7 weeks it would take to do this job and taking the crews away from other projects.

Mr. Hayes advised that while DPW couldn't do this forever, they could do this project more economically than a contractor, but not quicker.

Mayor Graham asked about putting in conventional storm drains and not the rain gardens.

Mr. Hauk advised that the rain gardens are tied to the grant.

Mr. Hayes commented that these rain gardens were designed for smaller areas, not the area of this parking lot. He discussed how they will complicate the snow plowing and removal plan. He also mentioned that if this project is bid out and the DEC comes in and tells National Grid that Anthony Street needs remediation, it would stop the contractor.

Mrs. Corriveau advised that one of the advantages of the City doing the infrastructure is that we would have time for the DEC report for National Grid before the project was bid out.

Mr. Pilon advised that his crews could do it, but there are a couple of projects – Madison Avenue and Columbia Street- that wouldn't get done.

Mayor Graham commented that we should bid it as is and get the best price as it needs to be finished. He stated that he didn't want to spend \$14,000 for an alternative design.

Council Member Butler stated that he would support bidding it.

Council Member Macaluso said that she didn't want to see other projects being pushed aside.

Council Member Smith stated that he didn't have a problem with putting it out for bid. However, it didn't mean that he would support it.

Council Member Burns remarked that she supports putting it back out to bid.

Water On Public Square

Mr. Pilon answered questions posed by Council.

Council Member Smith remarked that the whole goal of the streetscape was to fill the buildings up in the downtown area. He commented that he didn't want to again read what he did in the paper this weekend. He questioned if staff is taking development into account when they propose to go from a 16" to a 12" line.

Council Member Butler asked if 16" was overkill.

Mr. Pilon explained that they ran the computer model and there isn't a big different in the 16" versus the 12". He explained the importance of the velocity that could be obtained by using the 12" line.

Mayor Graham remarked that he would like to see that the upgrades for the services that leave the main and go into the buildings are taken into account,

Mr. Pilon responded that they will take a closer look at that.

Mrs. Corriveau commented that we need to rely on our professional staff to put in the most effective size.

Tourism Fund Balance

Council reviewed the report from Mr. Mills. Council Member Butler thanked Mr. Mills for preparing it.

PARK RULES AND CHAPTER 75 OF CITY CODE, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Memorandum from Planning and Community Development Coordinator Kenneth A. Mix, June 10, 2010

Council Members reviewed the memorandum and discussed the alcohol permit.

Council Member Butler asked if they could apply on line.

Mrs. Corriveau responded that they couldn't at this time.

Chief Goss commented that the alcohol should not be allowed on the sports fields and should only be allowed in the picnic areas.

After discussions about block parties, Council Member Burns commented that is it being hypocritical to authorize block parties where adults are consuming alcohol in close proximity to children, but to think that it is horrific at the fairgrounds.

Mayor Graham agreed with Council Member Burns and also commented that community event waivers should be authorized by the City Council.

After discussions the Council concurred with the following:

- 1) Chapter 75- B1 to incorporate the following information in proper format. No alcohol permits for playgrounds. Permits allowed at Bicentennial Park, Factory Square Park, John C. Thompson Park, Marble Street Park (discretionary), Veterans' Memorial Riverwalk, Waterworks Park, and Whitewater Park.
- 2) B2 of Chapter 75 should be left in to read "Other city locations: permit to be issued by the Police Department or designee."
- 3) Closing hours for J.C. Thompson Park will be 10 p.m.
- 4) City reserves the right to require large event organizers to provide for removal of their trash.
- 5) Under 216-12. Boats it should read "Non-motorized boats or small motorized boats or other flotation devices may be hand launched."
- 6) Pets should be prohibited from all playgrounds.

WHITEWATER PARK DECK- HOME RULE LEGISLATION

Council Member Smith commented that he is not in favor of leasing or selling the deck.

Attorney Burrows commented that Council adopted a resolution granting limited rights.

Council Member Smith remarked that this is incorrect. Council adopted a resolution that said it was not excessive use.

Mayor Graham further clarified the resolution to indicate that the use of the deck on Thursdays from 4 -10 pm was an appropriate and finite use of the City property.

Mrs. Corriveau explained that Maggie's then submitted an application for a liquor license to the state.

Attorney Burrows asked Council what portion of the lower deck they were looking at to convey interest in.

Mayor Graham commented that some feel it should have a pathway to connect the two sides. The deck is 18' x 32'. The deck remaining would be 12' x 32', leaving a 6' path on the outside. Mayor Graham also remarked that Council could also require the sale or lease of the entire structure.

Council Member Macaluso said that would be her choice.

Attorney Burrows explained that the agreement would either be a deed or lease transaction and we can't say what the State will do with the home rule request.

Council Member Burns remarked that we do not want to tie up Attorney Burrows' time as we haven't met with the owners yet.

Attorney Burrows commented that in another grant agreement, it dealt with the exchange of property. Probably, the State will demand that this public property be exchanged for similar property.

Mrs. Corriveau advised that previously they allowed the City to roll the monies into maintaining recreational property and doesn't think this will be an issue.

Mayor Graham remarked that any lease will imply that they will be leasing for the entire year. He also commented that we need to find out more of what they want to do and he agreed with Council Member Butler that it should be sold.

Council Member Macaluso stated she agreed it should be sold.

Mrs. Corriveau and Mr. Mix will be in contact with the owners of Maggie's.

Mayor Graham asked what would have happened if Maggie's obtained their liquor license and the City obtained a fee for leasing out the deck to them.

Attorney Burrows responded that this Council has been extremely ethical and has contacted the Department of State. Now, the Department of State is taking a very strict approach.

Mayor Graham commented that home rule legislation is going to be expensive and could have dubious end results.

Attorney Burrows responded that the grant language says what it says and the City is on record of contacting them and he doesn't want to see the City be penalized.

Work session ended at 11:03 p.m.

Donna M. Dutton
City Clerk